



215 East-18th Street
New York
May 24th

My Dear Friend.

It is always such a pleasure and honor to be allowed to write to you that I seek every opportunity as an excuse for it; but I hope you will not feel bound to reply always. I know how many claims there are upon your time that I shall feel satisfied with a semi-occasional letter. - Your last to me I have read over and over again many times and thank you for every word of wisdom and truth. I wish I lived near enough to you to be always under the influence of your mind and character. As it is I come

to you most freely with all
knotty questions and points.
I had hoped to go to Boston
this week to attend the A. S.
Meeting and see my friends;
but I am suffering from a
swollen face and had to
postpone the visit.

I saw Miss
Weston during the Anniversary
here and learned something
of you. It was very pleasant
to see her looking so bright &
handsome and listen to her
clear talk on a subject in
which I felt great interest but
knew but little. The tone of
the Meeting here was painful
not from any obvious - but a
sort of under-current of
dissatisfaction & unfriendliness
- It was a something felt
rather than seen. I missed

the heartiness and uniformity
of sentiment which characterized
former meetings. For myself -
understanding so little of the
causes of disaffection and disunion
- I am willing to abide any deci-
sion of the Society and will work
for it as well as I can - but I
shall hail with delight the
moment when they conclude
to disband and do you not
think they will - when all the
States shall have ratified the
Amendment? To continue longer
would be the madness of folly -
and even now, it seems an
error of nomenclature. I did
not vote either way - for I felt
that I should not - without
a more thorough hearing and
a wider examination of the
different bearings of the
question - Casually looking

at it, it seems that the Government is fully committed to the Anti-Slavery policy. & the Reconstruction of the Slave States must be upon a free industrial basis. This granted it appears to me that Negro Suffrage follows as truly as the night succeeds the day - But I may not be clear upon a matter so hampered by political quibbles & quibbles. I should like to hear your statement in a long conversation. And when I come to Boston or you come here, I trust you will grant me a little time and the benefit of your large thought &c - I have not heard from you or written you since Mrs Chapman, since the cruel assassination of the good President! What a national calamity it was - yet by

a mysterious Providence it
may be wrought to our advant-
-age that pure and gentle
heart, that loving soul would
perhaps have been too tender
and forgiving for the hardened
creatures with whom he had to
deal - and now "after life's fitful
fever he sleeps well" How
universal has been the grief
of the Nation and how hearty
and entire is the sympathy of
England and France. Those
lines in Punch were so open,
frank down right and outright
in their confession. I hope,
sincerely, that American
soreness of nerve is now quite
cured. I think I notice a
change in the tone of some
of our leading journals as
if they had been mollified.
But it is a great thing to

be so widely loved and
respected as Mr Lincoln
was! Who ever went into
history so splendidly?
— And - Jeff Davis' arrest
in petticoats!! Did you
ever hear of such a farce?
and what a termination
to the for - disant Confeder-
-acy! How England will
deride and mock this Donkey
with his stolen Lion's skin
Now that his length of ears
and cowardly bray have
betrayed his true genius!!
"Punch" will be rich for
some time to come —

When are you
coming to New York - I am
so anxious to see you. Before
you come will you be
kind enough to drop me
a line?

I could write on for an hour, but consideration for you must force me to stop. But there are fifty questions suggest themselves to me which I should like to propose to you for solution.

— Please present my warm regards to your Mother and Sisters - and your daughter, whom I once met - also Miss Mary Chapman - say to her that I often think of her and the pleasant visit I once made her -

Please excuse, dear Mrs Chapman, this long, tiresome letter and believe me ever your grateful affectionate and admiring friend

Mattie Griffith

Mattie Griffith

not dated